



# The IGUANA

Volume 15, No. 17

August 28, 2003



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

## Chairman visits

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers shakes the hand of Command Sgt. Maj. Roderick Wilkins during his visit to Soto Cano Air Base August 13. During his visit, Gen. Myers had lunch with JTF-Bravo service members and praised their hard work. See page 3 for more details.

# Honduran soldiers deploy to Iraq

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Over 300 Honduran soldiers deployed to Iraq from Soto Cano Air Base last week with some help from the United States military.

The contingent will become part of a Central American Task Force that will work with the United States and other allied nations.

Members of Joint Task Force Bravo helped the Hondurans by lending their expertise in each step of the deployment process, said Lt. Col. Jack L. Briggs II, AFFOR commander.

"AFFOR, ARFOR and J-Staff all pulled together to help this contingent to prepare," he said. "From the start of this operation to the finish, we've been there every step of the way."

JTF-B service members picked up ammo and equipment from different locations and transported it back to SCAB. Once all of the gear arrived, soldiers and airman helped the Honduran soldiers palletize and load the equipment onto aircraft. They also provided the pilots and aircraft that their counterparts used

See **DEPLOYMENT** page 6



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Honduran soldiers stand in formation before boarding a plane at Soto Cano.



# Take a stand against the enemy

By Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn  
Joint Task Force-Bravo command chaplain

A friend came up one day and said, "Hey, I've lined you up with a great date for Saturday night. Who is it?" I asked. It turned out to be my future wife, Tracy. I had never met or seen her before. "Oh, no," I said, "I'm not going on a blind date." "Don't worry," my friend said. "Tracy is great and trust me, she's a real looker. But if you're unsure, here's how you can get out of the date if you don't like the way she looks. Knock on the door and when she opens it, check her out. If you like what you see - great! If not, fake an asthma attack. Grab your throat, go 'Aaahhhggggg!' and call off the date." So I went to pick up Tracy. I knocked and she came to the front door. My friend was right. She was beautiful! I stood there not knowing exactly what to say. She took one look at me and went, 'Aaahhhggggg!' In reality, our first date wasn't a blind date, but I'll save that story to share another time. This month, we'll celebrate 19 wonderful years of marriage. But that wouldn't be possible if I hadn't taken a chance and asked her out on that first date. God doesn't want you to simply "take a chance" on how to know Him or serve Him. He wants you to "take a stand" and commit yourselves to a lifelong relationship. So how do you do this?

**(S) Surrender Your Life to Christ.** When you joined the military, you surrendered your life to Uncle Sam. You voluntarily gave up certain rights and freedoms for the length of your basic training while at the same time giving drill sergeants permission to treat you the way they. Let me ask something - Were you crazy?! Why would you do such a thing? College money. Adventure. Career. Duty. The bottom line is you surrendered your lives to prepare for battle. Physical battles require physical strength. Spiritual battles require spiritual strength. Jesus is the source of both. The only way to be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might is to surrender your life to Him.

**(T) Train for Battle.** Commanders provide what you need to survive in the field, but the equipment is worthless if you aren't trained on it or don't use it. God has provided offensive and defensive weapons and He expects Christian warriors to train and use them. The Belt of Truth - The power of God is greater than the power of sin or Satan. The Breastplate of Righteousness - Guards us from making decisions based on feelings rather than what we know to be right. The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace - We are to leave the peace of God everywhere we go, much like a footprint. The Shield of Faith - Total dependence on God, upon His presence and His power. The Helmet of Salvation - The mind is where most battles are won or lost. Salvation allows us to say yes to God and no to sin. The Sword of the Spirit - The Word of God is our sword because of its power to overcome our enemy. Praying Always - Keep the lines of communication open with our Commander. "Full armor" means every piece is essential.

**(A) Acknowledge the Power of Evil.** Until September 11th, many in the U.S. underestimated the pow-

## The Chaplain's Corner

er of evil in our world. Warnings were issued over ten years ago about a terrorist named Osama bin Ladin, but it was easy to believe that terrorist attacks only happen overseas. A study published by the New England Journal of Medicine revealed that dead snakes bit 15 percent of people admitted for snakebites. Snakes have a reflex action that continues even after they die. A decapitated snake can still bite an hour after death. Satan's classification as a serpent reminds us that he is still dangerous though Christ has delivered the fatal blow. The same is true of our war overseas. Although we've overwhelmed their forces, they can still hurt us if we let our guard down. Don't underestimate the enemy.

**(N) Never Stop Fighting.** Our battle against Satan is personal, face-to-face and hand to hand, a life and death struggle. In 1989, an 8.2 earthquake almost flattened Armenia, killing over 30,000 people in less than four minutes. In the midst of utter devastation and chaos, a father left his wife securely at home and rushed to the school where his son was supposed to be, only to discover that the building was flat as a pancake. After the traumatic initial shock, he remembered the promise he had made to his son: "No matter what, I'll always be there for you." Through tears he began digging through the rubble where his son's classroom would have been.

As other parents arrived, they wept for their lost children and tried to pull him off of what was left of the school saying, "It's too late!" "You can't help!" "Go home!" "Face reality, there's nothing you can do!" To each parent he responded, "Are you going to help me?" Then he proceeded to dig for his son, stone by stone. The fire chief and the police tried to make him stop. To each, he gave the same response. He dug for eight hours, twelve hours, twenty-four hours, thirty-six hours, and then in the thirty-eighth hour, he pulled back a boulder and heard his son's voice. He screamed his son's name, "Armad!" He heard, "Dad? It's me, Dad! I told the other kids not to worry. I told them if you were alive, you'd save me and when you saved me, they'd be saved. You promised, 'No matter what, I'll always be there for you!' You did it, Dad!" Fourteen children were still alive, saved by a wedge, like a triangle from when the building collapsed. Saved because a father promised to always be there for his son. Jesus has promised to never leave nor forsake you. No matter what, keep fighting.

**(D) Discipline Yourself.** I remember teaching each of my girls to ride a bicycle. Especially Emily. She would climb up onto the seat, position her feet on the pedals, hands on the handlebars, and say, "Don't let go!" "I'll be right next to you, holding you," I assured her. "I won't let you fall. You can do it." There are days when

I will help my daughters keep their balance, when I will run alongside of them, when I will be there to hold them. But eventually, I will have to let go again and again. I must discipline them to stand on their own. There are days ahead when the Lord will test your balance. He never stops running alongside of you. He's always there for you to hold on to, but there will be times when He will let go of the bike long enough to see how you are growing. He will let go to see where you stand, to see if you're depending on yourselves or on Him. Even if you fall, He's there to pick you up and help you start pedaling again.

Have you surrendered your life totally and completely to Christ? Are you trained for battle? Do you respect our enemy or fear him? Are you willing to keep fighting and discipline yourself in order to grow? I challenge you to take a stand for Jesus today. If you need someone to talk to, contact Chaplain (Capt.) Tommy Vaughn, JTF-B Command Chaplain, at 6844 or 6845.

## SUBMISSIONS

**The Iguana is always looking for submissions. Any articles, photos or letters to be submitted to *The Iguana* should be sent to the PAO at [james.wyllie@jtfb.southcom.mil](mailto:james.wyllie@jtfb.southcom.mil) or delivered to the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. D-06. If you have questions about possible submissions call ext. 4150 or 4676 to talk to the editor.**

## The IGUANA

### EDITORIAL STAFF

#### JTF-Bravo Commander

Col. William G. Phelps Jr.

#### Public Affairs Director

1st Lt. Rob Goza

#### Superintendent

Tech. Sgt. Tom Mullican

#### Editor

Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

#### Photo Technician

Martin Chahin

#### E-mail:

[PUBLICAFFAIRSOFFICE@jtfb.southcom.mil](mailto:PUBLICAFFAIRSOFFICE@jtfb.southcom.mil)

Website: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtfbravo>

This funded, joint U.S. Air Force/Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of *The Iguana* do not necessarily reflect the official view of, and are not endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense or the departments of the Air Force or Army.

Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, APO AA 34042, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

PRINTED BY PUBLYN SA

August 28, 2003

## News

The IGUANA 3

# Chairman visits JTF-B members

By James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers stopped by Soto Cano Air Base Aug. 13 for the chance to speak with some Joint Task Force Bravo service members.

The chairman thanked JTF-B members for their hard work, and participated in various ceremonies.

"I want you all to know how much I appreciate all that you have done for your country," said Myers.

The chairman's visit had an impact on those who ate with him.

"I think that it's great for such a high-ranking officer to spend time with enlisted personnel for the fact that he gives lower ranks something to aspire to," said Marine Pfc. Brandon Posey, Joint Security Forces.

The chairman asked personnel about operating in a joint environment and taking advantage of Honduras during their off time.

Their lunch with the chairman is an experience that will stick with them, said Marine Pfc. Humberto Portillo, JSF.

"We're the future of the military, and for him to come and see us is something that will have a lasting impression on all of us," he said.



Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers (third from left) speaks with U.S. service members over lunch.

# Firefighters stop blaze at base club

By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

Firefighters from the Soto Cano Fire Department responded to and successfully contained a fire at the Cabana Club August 5.

The SCFD was notified of the danger at 9:51 that morning after attendants noticed smoke rising from the roof of the club. In response, the department deployed 14 firefighters and seven vehicles to the scene.

Upon arrival, the firefighters were able to stop the spread of flames to other parts of the club after several minutes of water hosing and removal of ceiling tiles.

"It seems as if the fire was started in an attempt to remove a beehive that was growing in the roof," said Master Sgt. David Tijerina, SCFD Assistant Chief of Operations.

The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

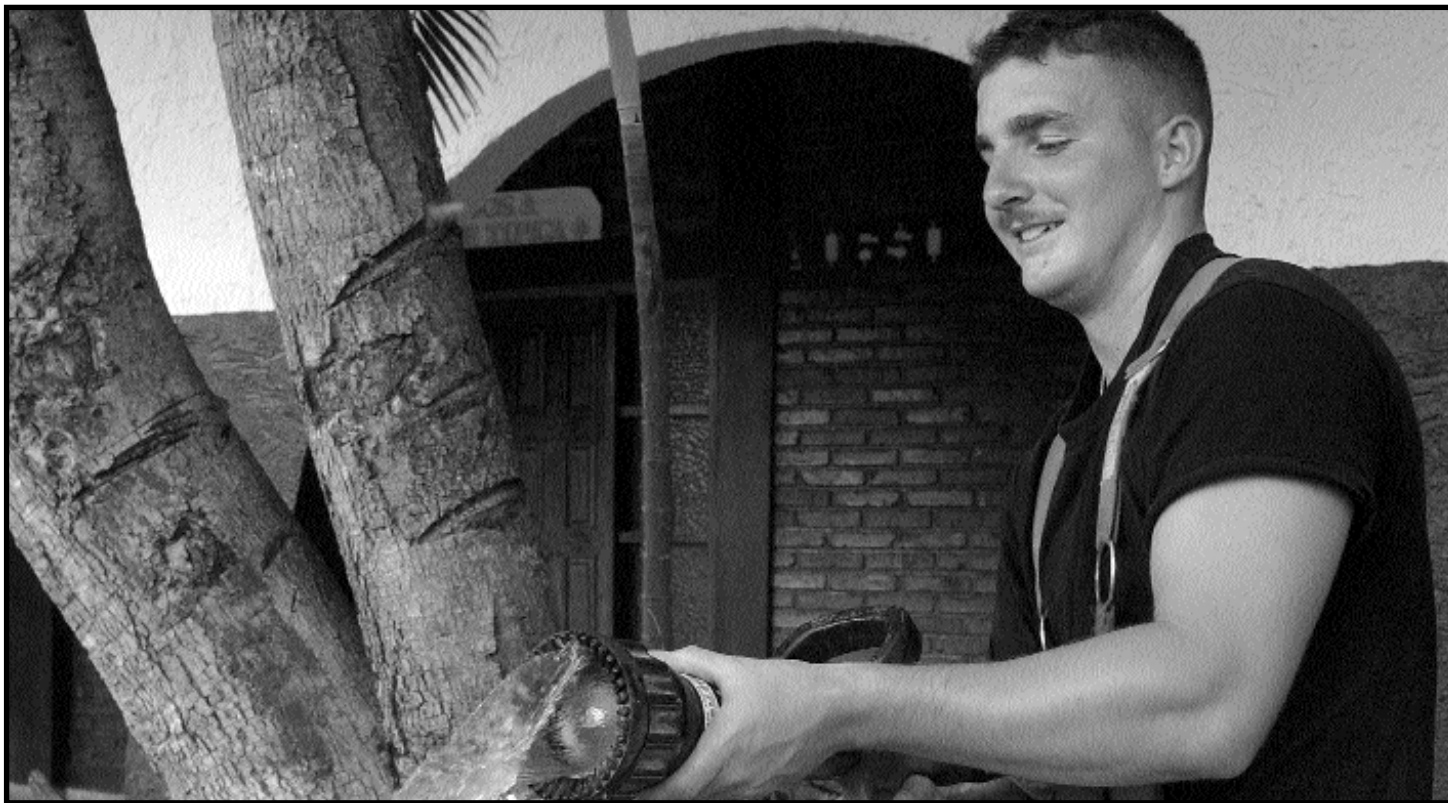


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

Firefighter Airman 1st Class Richard Lambe, clears out a water hose after responding to a fire at the Cabana Club.





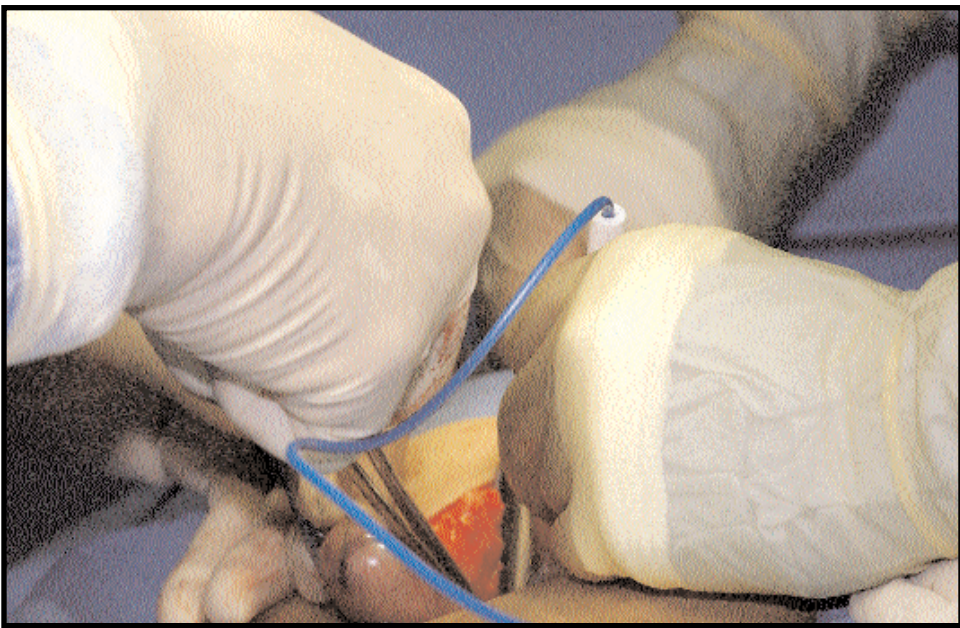
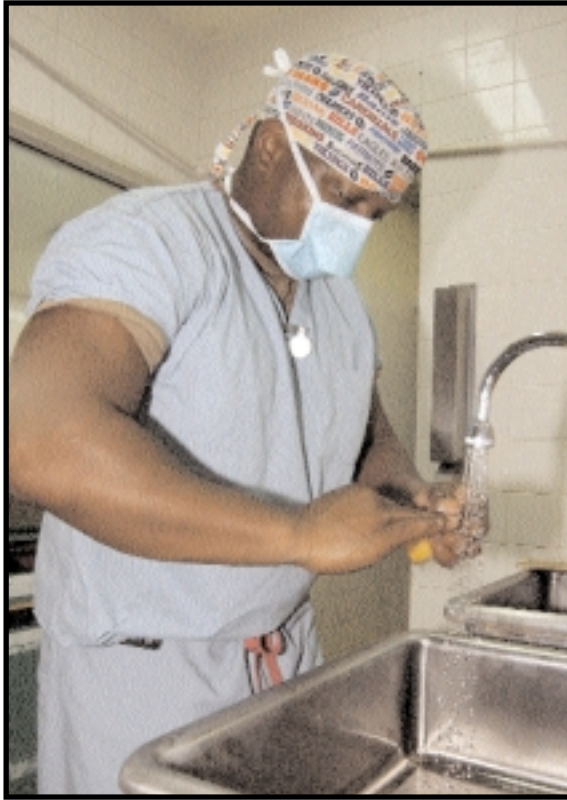
**Top:** Cpt. David Dewitt dons surgical mask before entering the operating room.

**Middle left:** American and Honduran medics remove a gall bladder.

**Middle right:** Sgt. Jeffrey Barr scrubs his hands before surgery.

**Bottom:** Surgeons perform gastromic surgery on a patients stomach.

**Right:** Barr and doctor Jose Angel Mejia operate on a woman who suffers from bladder pain.



**Article and Photos**  
**By Spc. James-Denton Wyllie**  
**Editor**

As part of Joint Task Force -Bravo, American service members in Honduras have come to expect top-level medical care.

However, many native Hondurans don't have access to the quality health care that is the military standard.

In an effort to share some of that quality and their experience with the native community, Medical Element soldiers Capt. David Dewitt and Sgt. Jeffrey Barr volunteer at local medical facilities near Soto Cano Air Base.

"Twice a week we visit the hospitals at La Paz and Comayagua respectively," said Dewitt, operating room officer in charge. "We're really doing a lot of good out here."

## Helpin

### Soldiers volunteer to

During their weekl the hospital's regular tors in a variety of sur doctor travels with th potential language pr

Although many of schools outside of the tentcy has never been witt.

"The Honduran do al people and do very said. "It's always a re and help them out."

The volunteer expe ways than one, said B

Unlike the U.S., wh the majority of surger rely on hand-to-eye c procedures.





**Top: Cpt. David Dewitt and a Honduran surgeon prep a patient for surgery.**

**Middle right: Honduran nurse Adalila Guitierrez Zuniga clears the throat of a woman to prevent choking.**

**Middle left: An "I.V." bag hangs in the foreground as surgeons work on a man with stomach tumors.**

**Bottom: Operating tools are cleaned and placed for easy access before each surgery.**



## g Hands

### elp Honduran hospitals

its, the soldiers join with  
ion, and assist local doc-  
procedures. A bi-lingual  
soldiers to resolve any  
ns.  
doctors were trained in  
ed States, their compe-  
ed into question, said De-  
  
are extremely profession-  
with what they have," he  
ling experience to come  
  
ze has paid off in more  
operating room NCOIC.  
video scopes are used in  
n Honduras most doctors  
nation during surgical

These surroundings help the medics refine tech-  
niques they would use when operating under similar  
field conditions, said Barr.  
"The absence of some of the technology that we  
have back in the states forces us to develop our basic  
skills," he said. "It's great because besides knowing  
how much we're helping, we're also getting some  
good training out of these visits."  
So far, Dewitt and Barr have participated in over  
50 surgeries. The desire to help is one that never  
fades, said Barr.  
"Some people come from miles away just to get  
the chance to see a doctor," he said. "When we oper-  
ate on a person their gratitude is incredible."  
Dewitt also recognizes the impact they have.  
"When one of our patients leaves the hospital, the  
thing that they will remember for ever is that they  
were helped by American soldiers."







Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie



Top, Honduran soldiers assemble at the Soto Cano Air Base flight line after processing through immigration and receiving their monthly pay.

Left, Senior Airman Francisco Aguilera (second from left) helps Honduran soldiers load rucksacks and duffel bags into the cargo area of a Boeing 757.

Below, Honduran soldiers wait for their name to be called from a manifest list before boarding the plane that will carry them on the first part of their deployment to Iraq.

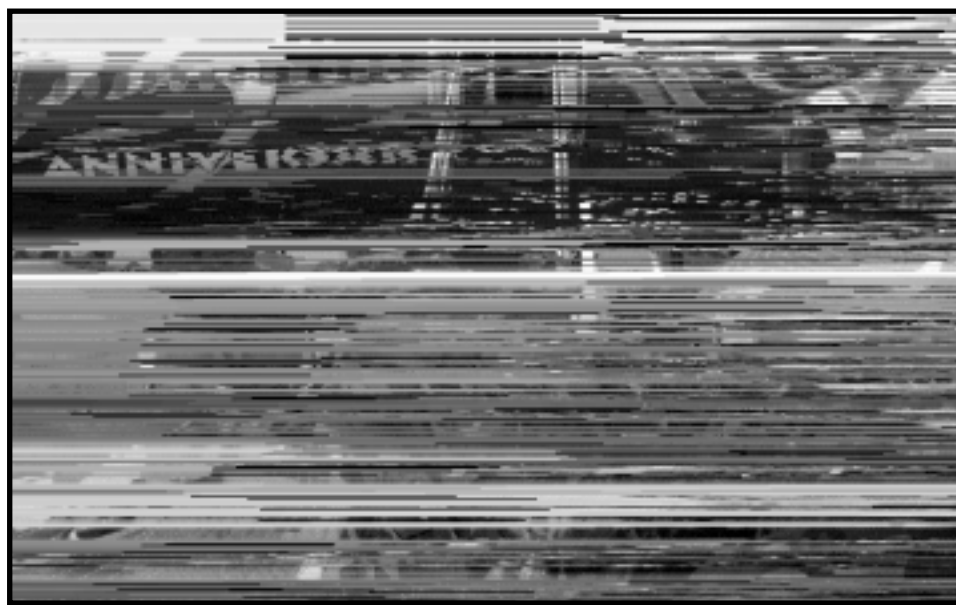


Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

## DEPLOYMENT

Photo by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie

from page 1

to exit the country.

The Hondurans have a long distance to travel on their way to Iraq, said Maj. Elbert Valentine, J-Staff.

“Once they leave Soto Cano, they will proceed on to Spain,” he said. “From Spain they will travel to

Kuwait where they will link up with a multinational division, and be tasked out in different assignments.”

The members of the contingent are slotted to serve on a six-month rotation.

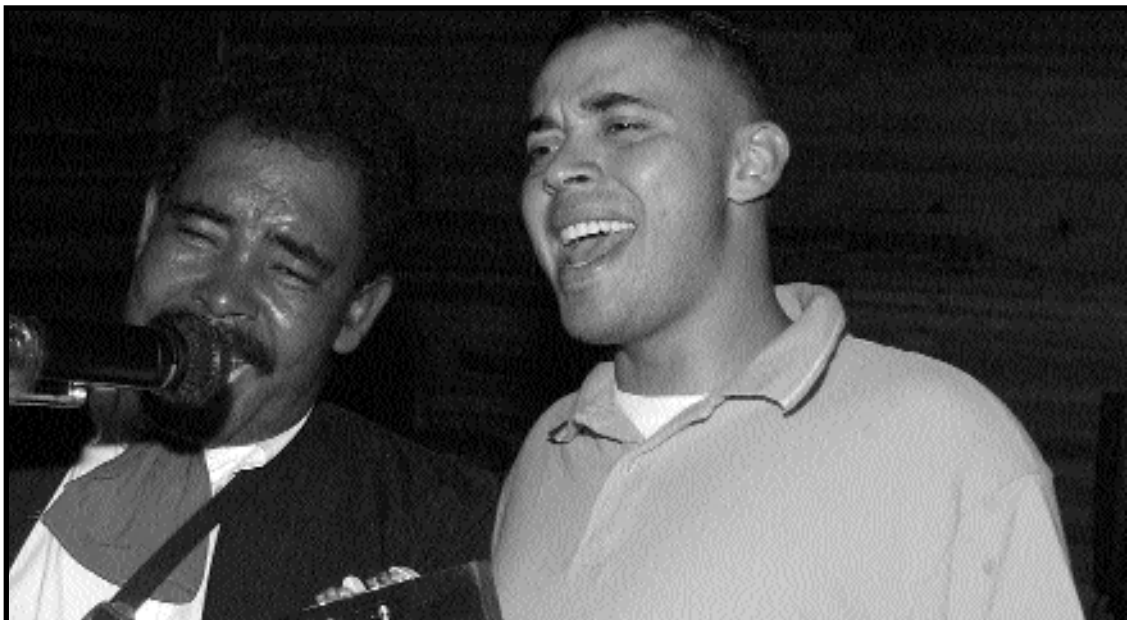
August 28, 2003

## snapshots

The IGUANA 7



Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor



*Mariachis Del Valle Comayagua performed on August 7 at the Oasis Club. Audience members were encouraged to join the band in song. The five man band will return to Soto Cano in September.*



## *El Mariachis*







Sgt. Angel Cruz completes a 50-yard swim during drownproof training with fellow members of the Soto Cano Air Base Search and Rescue Team. The training consisted of swimming, treading water, and blindfolded leaps off of the diving board. Below, Staff Sgt. James Russo takes a break after his turn at swimming.



## Swim ... or Sink!

Photos by Spc. James-Denton Wyllie  
Editor

*New and old members of the Soto Cano Air Base Search and Rescue Team take the plunge during drownproof training.*



Staff Sgt. Jimmy Jimenez leaps into the pool with a M-16 during drownproofing. Members swam with and without gear.



1st Lt. Phobe Price gets a "helping hand", from Capt. Thomas Swint off the diving board at the blindfold jump.